

**ENTERED**

January 23, 2019

David J. Bradley, Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
GALVESTON DIVISION

HARVEY SMITH, §  
TDCJ # 01990542, §  
§  
Petitioner, §  
VS. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:19-CV-0017  
§  
LORIE DAVIS, §  
§  
Respondent. §

**ORDER TO TRANSFER**

Petitioner Harvey Smith, an inmate in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice—Correctional Institutions Division (“TDCJ”), has filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The petition challenges a 2015 conviction for aggravated robbery in Harris County, Cause Number 142160501010. Smith is proceeding *pro se*. After reviewing the pleadings, the Court concludes that this action must be transferred for reasons set forth briefly below.

Because the petitioner is in custody pursuant to a judgment and sentence by a state court in Texas, which has more than one federal district, jurisdiction over the petition is determined by the place of conviction or the place of confinement, as follows:

Where an application for a writ of habeas corpus is made by a person in custody under the judgment and sentence of a State court of a State which contains two or more Federal judicial districts, the application may be filed in the district court for the district wherein such person is in custody or in the district court for the district within which the State court was held which convicted and sentenced him and each of such district courts shall have concurrent jurisdiction to entertain the application.

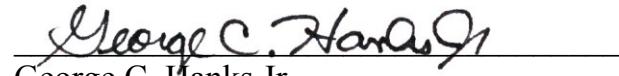
28 U.S.C. § 2241(d). The Fifth Circuit has emphasized that, under § 2241(d), a petitioner may seek a federal writ of habeas corpus in one of *only* two places: (1) the district in which the state court conviction was entered, or (2) the district within which the petitioner is incarcerated. *See Wadsworth v. Johnson*, 235 F.3d 959, 962 (5th Cir. 2000).

Harris County, where the challenged state court conviction was entered, is located in the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 124(b)(2). The Ramsey I Unit, where the petitioner is presently incarcerated, is located in Brazoria County, which is in the Southern District of Texas, Galveston Division. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 124(b)(1). Although the petition was properly filed in the Southern District of Texas for purposes of Section 2241(d), the challenged conviction that has no ties to the Galveston Division. Under these circumstances, and in the interest of justice, a transfer to the Houston Division is appropriate. *See Mitchell v. Henderson*, 432 F.2d 435, 436 (5th Cir. 1970) (concluding that the division of conviction, where witnesses were located, was a more appropriate venue than the division of confinement in challenge to conviction).

In the exercise of its discretion and in furtherance of justice, this Court will transfer the petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d) and Southern District policy. *See* General Order of May 30, 1985 (dictating that challenges to the conviction go to the division within the district where the conviction was entered).

Based on the foregoing, the Court **ORDERS** the Clerk of Court to **TRANSFER** this habeas action to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, and to provide a copy of this order to the parties.

SIGNED at Galveston, Texas, this 23rd day of January, 2019.

  
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George C. Hanks Jr.  
United States District Judge